

DARING ITALIAN OFFICERS SINK AUSTRIAN SHIP

Rome, Jan. 8.—(Correspondence of The Associated Press.)—It was by swimming into Pola harbor and steering two small submarine motor boats that two Italian naval officers destroyed the Austrian dreadnaught *Viribus Unitis* just before the signing of the armistice between Italy and Austria. The swimmers were in the water nine hours and had to penetrate four barriers across the harbor entrance, two of which were composed of steel submarine nets. After they had attached their bomb to the side of the dreadnaught, they were captured and taken on board the vessel and were there when the warship was blown up.

They escaped without injury and have returned to Rome to tell of their exploit which is characterized as one of the most daring and successful in the history of naval warfare. Only the fact that the *Viribus Unitis* had been destroyed by Italian naval forces previously had been made known but now the details have been given out by the Italian Admiralty.

The officers who thus sent to the bottom a 29,000-ton ship, one of the most powerful in the Austrian navy, were Lieutenant Raffaele Paolucci and Major Raffaele Roberti. The attack was delivered on the morning of November 1, 1918.

To tow the bombs into Pola harbor, the two Italians invented small compressed air motors to which were attached bombs. For six months the two naval men practiced in long distance swimming. The Italian Admiralty gave them the use of a motor boat.

Reaching the harbor entrance at nightfall, the two daring men started on their expedition swimming beside their little motors and steering them to escape detection by sentries on a wooden pier across the harbor mouth. Paolucci and Roberti had hats shaped like bottles, and the sentry saw nothing but a couple of bottles being tossed about by the waves. When his back was turned they advanced and safely passed the first barrier.

After infinite labor they fought their way through the steel nets and the Austrian fleet lay before them. Reaching the side of the *Viribus Unitis*, they attached the bomb to her hull beneath the ladder which led to her deck and timed the bomb to explode at 8:30 a. m.

By this time they were exhausted, having been in the water more than nine hours. As they were leaving, they were discovered and taken on board the dreadnaught. At first they refused to answer the questions asked them by Admiral Vucovich. At 6:15, however, they told the admiral what they had done and he gave the order to abandon ship. Paolucci asked the admiral if he and his friend might also try to save themselves, and he shook his hands saying, "You are brave men and deserve to live." They plunged into the water and swam away, but ten minutes later the admiral began to suspect the bomb story and sent a launch to bring them back. They were made to climb up the ladder under which they had set the bomb which was due to explode in two minutes. The ladder was crowded with sailors returning to their ship.

"Run, run for your lives," shouted Paolucci, struggling to reach the deck before the explosion took place. He and Roberti had reached the deck and ran to the stern of the dreadnaught when a terrific explosion rent the air and a column of water 200 feet high shot upward. Admiral Vucovich again gave them permission to save themselves, and they began swimming away from the ship five minutes when they heard another explosion and saw the other bomb which had been left adrift had been carried by the current alongside the large Austrian liner *Wien* and had there exploded.

The *Viribus Unitis* was then lying on her side, but suddenly the huge ship turned bottom upward and Lieutenant Paolucci saw Admiral Vucovich scramble upward and stand with folded arms on the keel, ready to go down with his vessel.

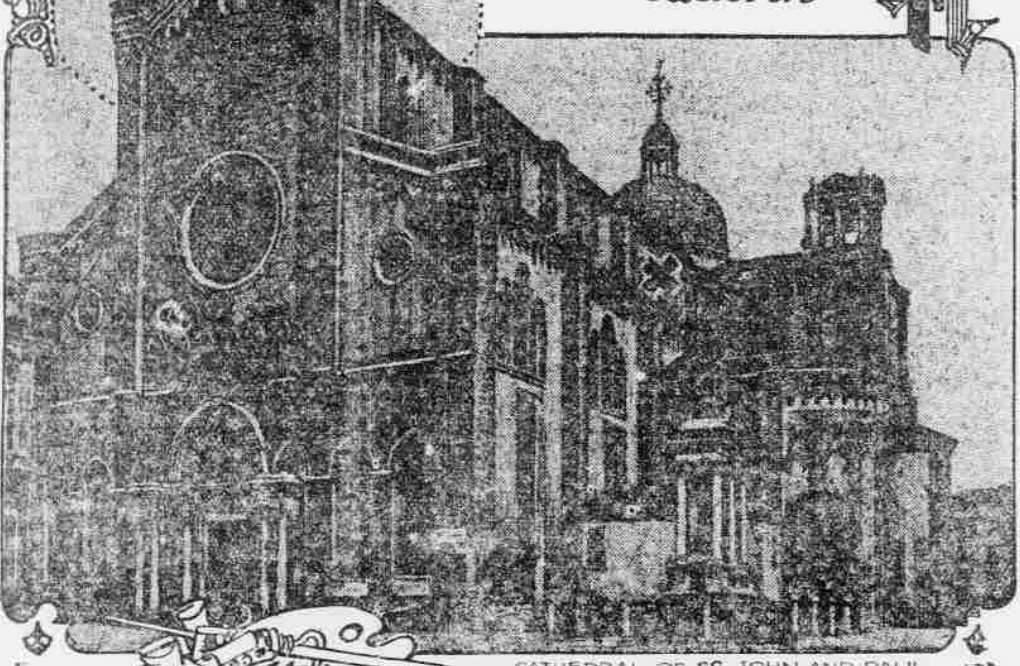
Major Roberti and Lieutenant Paolucci were recaptured and taken on board another Austrian warship where they were kept prisoners until the armistice was signed and an Italian warship entered the harbor. Then a launch was sent for the two heroes and they were taken to a destroyer to Venice where the people gave them a vociferous welcome.

GALILEE.

It was just 277 years ago today that Galileo Galilei died of a fever at Arcetri. The victim of a relentless persecution, totally blind and almost completely deaf in his latter years, "the merry Galileo" yet continued his investigations to the last, and he was planning a copious edition of his "Dialogues on Motion" when death seized him. He was then in his 78th year, and he had been employed in scientific investigations since the age of 24. To him belongs the credit for being the real founder of the science of astronomy.

After having enjoyed the favor of popes and churchmen for several years, in 1616 he was accused of having taught that the sun is the center of the planetary system. The Inquisition pronounced this doctrine "expressly contrary to Holy Scriptures" and the philosopher was forced to promise never again to teach the motion of the earth and the central situation of the sun either by speech or writing. The power of the ideas fermenting in his brain was more than he could stand, however, and in 1632 he published a defense of the Copernican system. Hailed before the authorities at Rome, he was condemned to be imprisoned. He was also commanded to recite once a week for three years the seven penitential psalms. Clad in sackcloth, and kneeling, Galileo made his abjuration. He swore upon the Gospels never again to teach the earth's motion; he declared his detestation of the prescribed opinions and promised to perform the penance laid upon him. Then rising from the ground, he exclaimed in an undertone, "It does move for all that!" For the remainder of his life Galileo was kept under surveillance, and while from that time on he paid little attention to astronomy, other branches of natural philosophy engaged his intellect.

Now Italy's Art was Saved Cathedral of S. John and Paul



The Cathedral of S. John and Paul in Venice is considered the Pantheon of the old Republic. It is a large, magnificent building in the Italian Gothic style, erected in the thirteenth century by the same architect who built the Cathedral of the Friar. Like Westminster Abbey, the interior of the church contains the tombs of many great men of the country. Here lie some of the greatest Doges, captains and admirals of the glorious armies and fleets of the Republic of Venice. The facade of the Cathedral has never been completely finished, but the interior presents the most imposing lines and richness of decoration.

One of the chapels, added late at the time of the maturity of the Venetian

art, was specially important, having been erected in memory of the great naval battle of Lepanto, which saved Europe from invasion and the tyranny of the Turks in the sixteenth century, just as in our time the battle of the Marne saved the world from the Hun. The chapel dedicated to the Virgin of the Rosary and decorated with precious bas-reliefs in marble by Vittoria as well as fine wood carving and paintings was burnt and completely destroyed sixty years ago. By greatest misfortune was also destroyed in the same fire one of the most celebrated canvases by Titian, "The Martyrdom of St. Peter," which was just deposited in that chapel while its own frame in the church was being restored.

Great care was taken in protecting the treasures of the cathedral at the

beginning of the war. All monuments were covered with scaffolds and masonry and the paintings and the precious windows of the main altar were taken away—only one canvas could not be removed, the canvas covering the ceiling of the Chapel of St. Domenico, painted by Piazzetta. This canvas was nailed to the ceiling by the painter in a way to make it impossible to be removed. On the 13th of September, 1916, an Austrian bomb hit the cathedral at the place marked by a cross in our picture, penetrated the wall and burst on the pavement, the splinters tearing to pieces that very canvas and hitting two of those monuments, but only damaging the scaffolding of the marbles. I will speak of these monuments in my next article.

STEPNEY

The Red Cross auxiliary will hold an all-day meeting at the home of Mrs. Milton R. Hawley on Wednesday. The dance held at the Firemen's hall on New Year's eve was attended by a large crowd of people. The firemen are planning to hold more of these events during the winter.

Mrs. Wallace Brown of Weston has spent several days with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Craft.

Mr. and Mrs. George Cline have closed their home and will occupy furnished rooms in New Haven during the winter.

Charles Nichols of Danbury spent New Year's day as a guest of his sister, Mrs. Stephen B. Hayes.

Mr. and Mrs. Eugene M. Peck have spent a couple of days as the guests of Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Williams in Bridgeport.

Mr. E. Reed of Shippenburg, Pa., has been the guest for a few days recently of Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Osborne.

M. B. Hawley and family entertained as New Year's guests, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Curtis and Mrs. Nichols of Newtown.

Mrs. Stanley Northrop is quite ill with influenza. Her mother, Mrs. William Kruger has returned from a few days' stay in New York City.

Mr. and Mrs. John Wheeler have entertained the Misses Evelyn and Dorothy Seely of Taubha for a few days.

The body of Charles Gaines of Hartford was brought to Stepney for interment on Sunday afternoon. Mr. Gaines was the son-in-law of Henry Seely of this place.

Miss Ruth Seely has visited her uncle, Rev. William Beardsley, in New Haven.

Mr. and Mrs. L. G. Osborne were guests recently of their son, C. E. Osborne, in Bridgeport.

Mr. and Mrs. George Douglass have closed their home here and will spend the winter in Bridgeport.

The Willing Workers of the Baptist church enjoyed a social evening at the Baptist church parlors on Tuesday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Blake and Miss Ruth Blake spent last week as the guests of relatives in Bridgeport.

Miss Elizabeth Gilbert has given up her position at Keller Brothers' in Bridgeport.

Misses Irma Nichols and Blanche Gilbert have resumed their studies at Mr. Holyoke school, Mass.

All the schools in town reopened last week except the Center which was without a teacher. Miss Jacot having been transferred to the Eastern school.

QUEEN HELENA

Italy's queen, Helena, will celebrate her forty-sixth birthday today. She is the daughter of Nicholas I, Montenegro's peasant monarch, and was reared in that country and at the court of the late Czar. Although a Slav, she has, from the day of her marriage to Victor Emmanuel in 1896, been a true daughter of Italy, working always for the interests and welfare of her adopted land. There was no political reason why the heir to the Italian throne should have married this princess of a petty state and this fact gives color to the assertions so often made that this alliance was a real love match, a rare thing among royalty.

BRUSSELS AND ITS PATRONESS

This is the day of the greatest of fetes of Brussels, when the inhabitants of the Belgian capital will honor the memory of St. Gudula, who has been the patroness of Brussels since the tenth century, and to whom they will offer thanks for their deliverance from the Teutons in the cathedral which bears her name.

It was in the seventh century that St. Gery, Bishop of Cambrai, built a chapel on one of the tiny islets of the River Senne. His eloquence and piety attracted large congregations, and a village soon sprang up in the vicinity of the chapel. That was the beginning of Brussels, or Brussel, to give it its old Flemish name, although to the majority of its citizens it is now Brussels, the latter being French.

St. Gudula, who was of noble birth, spent her life in abstinence and prayer, and in works of mercy, and when she died on Jan. 8, 712, her remains were buried near Vilveord. In the year 978 her relics were transported to Brussels, and ever since then she has been worshipped as the special patroness and protectress of the city. The Cathedral of St. Gudula, commenced in 1010, is an ancient Gothic structure which is one of the chief architectural ornaments of the lower or old town. Brussels was not much damaged by the invasion of the Germans, and fortunately the cathedral escaped destruction, and, in fact, suffered practically no damage whatever.

Confederate veterans will pay tribute today to the memory of Gen. James Longstreet, who was born in Edgefield district, South Carolina, 38 years ago today, Jan. 8, 1821. After the close of the Civil War, in which Longstreet was one of the South's ablest leaders, he became a Republican and held places under the administrations of Grant and other Republican presidents. At one time he was minister to Turkey. He died in Gainesville, Ga., 15 years ago this month. His widow, Mrs. Helen Longstreet, his second wife, was for some time postmistress at Gainesville, but was removed by President Taft for "pernicious political activity in office." Mrs. Longstreet, it was alleged, transferred her political allegiance to Col. Roosevelt, and attended the Progressive convention in Chicago as an accredited representative.

The removal of Mrs. Longstreet later became the subject of more or less heated political controversy.

FRATERNAL NEWS.

Court Marina.

Court Marina, No. 53, F. of A., held a very interesting meeting on Monday night at their rooms. Five new members were initiated, and arrangements made for the meeting of the Atlantic City club to take place the latter part of August. At that meeting the degree will be conferred in the presence of the supreme delegates.

AUCTION SALE!



FRIDAY
JANUARY 10th, 1919
AT 2 P. M.

GOODS NOW ON DISPLAY FOR
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Consisting of large amount of GROCERIES—about 100 cases of Macaroni, Spaghetti, Noodles, Etc., 35 cases Alaska Salmon, 2,000 lbs Kidney and black-eyed beans, Spices, Tomato Sauce and odds and ends. Office and Household furniture, Roll Top Mahogany and Oak Desks, large Oak flat top Cutler Desk, Typewriter chairs, office chairs, etc., New Parlor Suit, also 1 new dining room suite; several new Couches; 2 second hand 3 piece parlor suites; large amount of second hand furniture, every description. Assortment new window shades, ladies' desks, mirrors, pictures, rugs, blankets, vases, ornaments, cut glass, plated ware, Rogers plate, electric parlor lamps, ladies' manicure and toilet sets, etc., etc. Men's Furnishings, consisting underwear, shirts, sweaters, socks, etc., etc. The above to be sold to the highest bidder, Friday, commencing 2 p. m.

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OUR NEWTOWN NEWS LETTER

(Special to The Times.)

Newtown, Jan. 8.—George W. Northrop of Palestine is negotiating for the sale of his farm stock and tools to Joseph Repko of Bridgeport. A deposit has been made and the goods will be passed as soon as Town Clerk Fitzschler shall have searched the titles.

W. C. Johnson has sold the Foundry property which includes the ice storing plant to Louis Strand of Bridgeport. Mr. Strand who is connected with the newspaper business in Bridgeport, will make improvements in the double dwelling by the lake and occupy it as a summer home. Mr. Johnson will look after storing the ice crop this winter for the owner who expects to continue the business of ice purveyor to the local trade.

J. E. Keane and Francis Leles of Sandy Hook have taken positions with the Conn. Power and Light Co. at Zear Bridge.

The Milk Producers of Newtown selected W. C. Johnson, Saturday, as their delegate to the meeting today in Hartford of the Connecticut 34th Producers' association. This organization is affiliated with the other milk producers' associations which supply most of the milk for the manufacturing towns along the Sound from New Haven to New York. They desire to give the dairymen a fair price for milk.

Captain A. H. Randall of Ridgefield and Private Frank McDonald of Bethel were guests of P. F. Sullivan at the Newtown Inn, Sunday.

John P. Keating, son of Mrs. Lucy B. Keating of Sandy Hook, who was a member of the army class at St. John's College, Brooklyn, spent the holidays at his home here. He returns this week to resume his collegiate course.

Martin Talty of Bridgeport was a guest for the holidays of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas C. Keane of Gas street.

Dr. W. J. McLaughlin closed his summer home in the borough last week and has removed his family to Bridgeport for the winter.

Paul Pierce of New York spent the New Year holiday season at his home in Hanover Springs. He will return January 14, 1919, for the annual meeting of the Hanover Springs National Farm Loan Association of Newtown, Fairfield County, Conn., of which he is secretary-treasurer. The meeting will be called at 2 p. m. at the Newtown Inn.

Leo T. Hickson, supervisor of schools for Newtown, returned Saturday night from a two days' visit to the city.

H. M. Tiemann, Sr., Howard Botsford and Samuel Longra were laid off in the recent reduction of war workers in Bridgeport and are at their homes here.

Miss Elizabeth Shepard, who has a summer home in town, is reported as being feeble at her home in New York city.

Delegates from the Newtown branch of the Equal Franchise League will attend the Fairfield County Suffrage association at the Stratfield hotel, Bridgeport, on Thursday, Jan. 8, at 11:30 a. m. Important matters will be discussed.

The many friends in Newtown of Miss Irene Corbett of Bridgeport will be glad to learn that she is recovering from a severe case of pneumonia and is able to be around the house.

GAS POISONING PROVES FATAL

S. H. Blackman, age 5 years, of 72 Berkshire avenue, was found dead in bed yesterday by Dr. John A. Maxwell of the Emergency hospital, who had been summoned by members of the family.

Dr. Maxwell reported the death as accidental gas poisoning. The doctor found one jet in the room slightly lit and the other jet turned in but not lighted. Blackman had been dead about two hours, according to the physician.

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TODAY'S ANNIVERSARY.

The Battle of New Orleans, in which Gen. Andrew Jackson won undying fame, was fought 104 years ago today, Jan. 8, 1815. In this terrible conflict, the last great battle of the war between England and America, the British loss was 2,000, while the American loss was but 13. It was a notable victory, won by mostly untrained soldiers against an army of British regulars. The battle resembled in many details the battle of Chateaugay, where 300 French-Canadians defeated 7,000 American veterans. At New Orleans, Jackson's army was entrenched behind breastworks of mud with ditches

In front, Louisiana militia, and Kentucky and Tennessee backwoodsmen comprised the major part of the force, and they utterly routed the British under Sir Edward Pakenham, who rallied his men time after time and charged the defenses. The brave general was killed in the battle.

The world's fur coat de luxe is being completed in Brooklyn. It will cost \$75,000 and is owned by Mrs. W. E. Corey, wife of the steel man.

Under a bill introduced by Senator Myers of Montana, volunteer workers for the government during the war, will receive bronze medals.

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NOTICE

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Water rates for the quarter ending January 1st, 1919, are NOW DUE and payable at the office of the Company, No. 820 Main Street. All bills must be paid on or before Jan. 15th, 1919.

Business hours on Saturdays from 8 A. M. to 12 M.
For the accommodation of the public the office will be kept open from

8 A. M. to 8 P. M.
Mondays, Jan. 6th and 13th, 1919.
ALBERT E. LAVERY,
a1* Secretary.



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